

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 through 8 (cancelled)

9. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a plate having a predetermined size and provided with:

a plurality of cell blocks defined by a plurality of groovy slits on a front face thereof;

and

a plurality of back holes on a back face thereof, each hole being communicatively connected with a predetermined slit,

wherein the plate is made of a cemented carbide material having wear resistance, the cemented carbide material being formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness, a connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block being 35 to 65% of the surface area of the plate.

10. (New) A die for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 9, wherein a height of the die is 2 to 5 mm.

11. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body, the jig comprising:

a die for forming a honeycomb body, the die comprising a plate having a predetermined size and provided with a plurality of cell blocks defined by a plurality of

groovy slits on a front face side thereof and a plurality of back holes on a back face thereof, each hole being communicatively connected with the slit,

a holding plate fixing a profile and size of the honeycomb body extruded from the die for forming the honeycomb body; and

a back holding plate controlling an amount of kneaded clay flowing into the back holes uniformly,

wherein the die and the holding plate are made of a cemented carbide material obtained by being sintered at high temperature.

12. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein the back holding plate is made of cemented carbide having wear resistance.

13. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein only the portions, which are in contact with the kneaded clay, of the holding plate and the back holding plate are made of cemented carbide having wear resistance.

14. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

15. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 12, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

16. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 13, wherein the cemented carbide alloy is formed by compacting, followed by sintering at high temperature, metal carbide powder of transition metal element series with an iron group metal binder having toughness.

17. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein the connection area ratio of the back hole and the cell block is 35 to 65% of a surface area of the plate.

18. (New) A jig for forming a honeycomb body according to claim 11, wherein a height of the slits defining the cell blocks is 2 to 5 mm.